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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, DR
SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE IN HARLEM JAN 30-31, 1984

REF: 83 STATE 368505

1. SUMMARY. SEVERAL GDDR OFFICIALS WERE CONTACTED AGAIN THIS MORNING WITH REFERENCE TO SUBJECT CONFERENCE. OFFICIALS WERE ASKED IF INVITATION FROM CONGRESSMAN [REDACTED] HAD BEEN RECEIVED AND PLANS FOR PARTICIPATION. FOR THE MOST PART THEY ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING, HOWEVER, FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO COVER EXPENSES. THE GDDR IS WORKING ON A CONTINUING RESOLUTION AT LAST YEAR'S BUDGET LEVEL UNTIL DOMINICAN CONGRESS APPROVES THE 1984 BUDGET. THIS, COUPLED WITH A DIFFICULT LOCAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, HAS REDUCED THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE AVAILABLE FOR GDDR PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS INVOLVING FOREIGN TRAVEL. END SUMMARY.

2. CODOPEX (DOMINICAN CENTER FOR THE PROMOTION OF EXPORTS). DIRECTOR DR. EDUARDO TEJERA WAS CONTACTED AND HE EXPLAINED THAT DUE TO OTHER COMMITMENTS AND SHORTAGE OF FUNDS HE COULD NOT ATTEND HIMSELF BUT THAT MR. SIMON DIAZ, DIRECTOR OF THE CODOPEX OFFICE IN NEW YORK SHOULD BE CONTACTED BY THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS. TEJERA WILL INFORM DIAZ OF THE CONFERENCE AND INSTRUCT HIM TO ATTEND.

3. SECRETARIAT OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. WE TALKED TO UNDER SECRETARY ISSA-CONDE (SECRETARY JOSE ANTONIO NAJRI WAS FIRST CONTACTED LAST WEEK REGARDING THE CONFERENCE AND HE PASSED ACTION TO ISSA-CONDE). ISSA CONDE STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED THE INVATION HE WOULD BE CONTACTING SEVERAL PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY THAT ARE WORKING WITH THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS AND REQUEST THEIR PARTICIPATION. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE SECRETARIAT DOES NOT HAVE FUNDS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THEY ARE WORKING AT LAST YEAR'S BUDGET LEVEL AND TO THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY. HE HOPES TO ENLIST THE PARTICIPATION OF BUSINESSMEN THAT WOULD PAY FOR THEIR OWN EXPENSES. POSSIBLE SPEAKERS COULD BE DR. MILTON MESSINA, ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT AND DR. LUIS HEREDIA-BONETTI, A PROMINENT LAWYER, BUSINESS ADVISOR AND A PAST PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AS WELL AS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF CONGRESSMAN RANGEL.

4. SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE: ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY MR. DEL TORO WAS CONTACTED IN RELATION TO THE CONFERENCE

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AND HE REPORTED THAT THE INVITATION FROM NEW YORK HAD NOT BEEN RECEIVED AS YET. THEY ARE INTERESTED BUT ARE ALSO FACING BUDGET PROBLEMS. WE ARE SENDING A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA SO THAT IT CAN BE DISCUSSED WITH OTHER OFFICIALS IN THE SECRETARIAT. PLEASE NOTE THAT CEDOPEX, AS THE EXPORT PROMOTION ARM OF THE GOVERNMENT, IS MORE INVOLVED IN EXPORT PROMOTION THAN THE SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE (SEE PARAGRAPH 2).

5. SECRETARIAT OF TOURISM. MRS. MILAGROS DE TAVERAS, OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TOURISM, INFORMED USFCS THAT SECRETARIAT OF TOURISM WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE BY MR. PEDRO ALEGRIA, DIRECTOR OF THE DOMINICAN TOURISM INFORMATION OFFICE IN NEW YORK. MR. ALEGRIA MAY BE CONTACTED IN NEW YORK CITY AT 485 MADISON AVE., TEL: 826-0750.

6. AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. AMCHAM PRESIDENT MARCELINO SAN MIGUEL RECEIVED INVITATION TO CONFERENCE AND HAS CONFIRMED HIS PARTICIPATION. AT THIS TIME AMCHAM IS REQUESTING ITS MEMBERSHIP TO PARTICIPATE.
(ORIGIN:USFCS/SCO:RFERMOSELLE)

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END OF MESSAGE

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